Chapter. 113

Sunday ②

I CAME TO ASK ONE LAST FAVOR...
AKARI, HINATA,
THIS IS YOUR LITTLE SISTER.
I FEEL SO BAD FOR HER,
HER MOTHER IS IN ILL HEALTH SO SHE HAS NO ONE THAT CAN LOOK AFTER HER.
I...
FEEL SO MUCH PITY FOR HER.

PLEASE,
WOULD YOU SHOW HER THE KIND OF AFFECTION YOU SHOW MOMO?
I'M BEGGING YOU.

UNFORTU-
NATELY,
WITH YOUR
MOTHER
AND DAD,
A LOT
HAPPENED
AND THINGS
DIDN'T
WORK OUT
WELL.
BUT
DAD
HAS
ALWAYS
BEEN
WORRYING
ABOUT...
DAD,
WAIT...
AT
LEAST
DON'T
MISTAKE
THAT
PART.
'A LOT
HAPPENED'
...?
— ALL
THAT
HAPPENED
WAS
YOU
FOUND
'SOMEONE
YOU
LIKED'.
MOM LOVED
YOU TO THE
VERY END...
SO
DON'T
...
TRY TO PASS IT
OFF LIKE 'BOTH
OF YOU WERE
RESPONSIBLE'.

AS THE KIND PERSON YOU KNEW HER AS...
I'D LIKE IT IF YOU COULD REMEMBER HER...
YOUR MOM ISN'T WITH US ANYMORE ...
NO,
DAD, THAT'S ENOUGH!!
BUT
... WELL ... LET'S NOT GO ONTO THAT.
THE TRUTH IS...
THERE WERE A LOT OF THINGS THAT HAPPENED WITH YOUR MOM THAT WE NEVER TOLD YOU ABOUT...
.....
WELL...
HUH?
AKARI ALL THAT ...
—WHAT'S IT CALLED... TRYING TO MAKE US THINK THINGS...
JUST...
Honestly.....
I'm sorry...
—YOU'VE BEEN OBFUSCATING THINGS THIS WHOLE TIME.
STOP.
But..... I can't take this anymore .....
That's where you decided to cut in, akari-san ?!
I'm impressed!!
Ooh... Onei-chan?! You're finally going to say it right there?!
a wa wa wa wa
Ha wa wa
DAD,
YOU ALWAYS SAY WHATEVER IT IS WILL GET YOU THROUGH WHATEVER YOU'RE UP AGAINST AT THE MOMENT.
EVEN IF
IT DIFFERS FROM THE TRUTH.

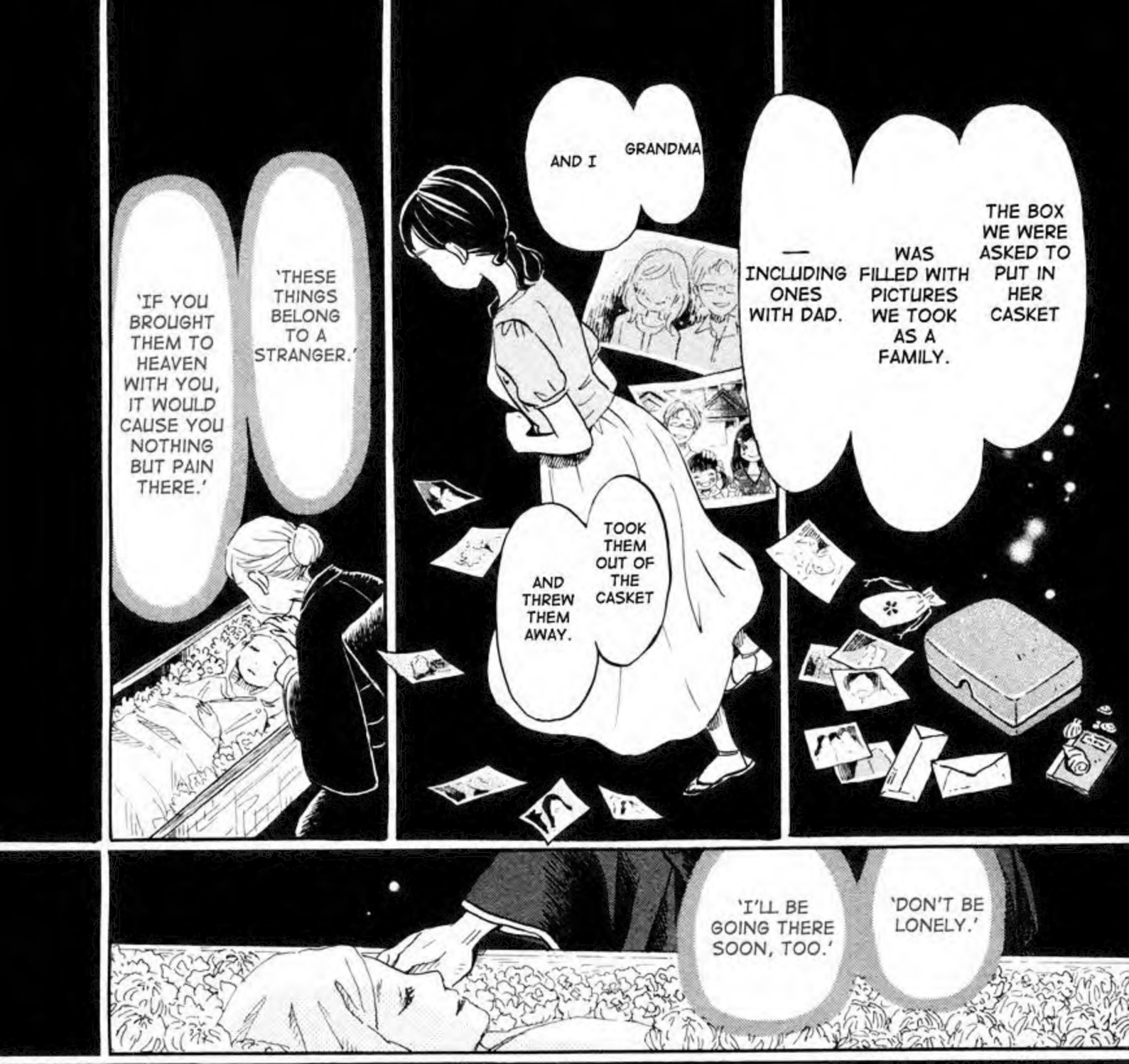
HINA,
IN THIS WORLD
THERE ARE PEOPLE THAT WILL JUST DECIDE TO EXTRAPOLATE THE TRUTH IF IT'S CONVENIENT FOR THEM
AND WHILE THEY'RE TALKING
THEY'LL CONVINCE THEMSELVES THAT THAT'S HOW IT REALLY WAS.
THAT'S
OUR FATHER.
WHAT'RE YOU TALKING ABOUT,
AKARI .....?
I'M WILLING TO BET THAT WHEN YOU WERE CONVINCING THAT OTHER WOMAN,
YOU PROBABLY MADE MOM OUT TO BE A BAD PERSON.
But... I feel guilty about your wife and daughters ...
Well... The truth is...
my wife..... .....
—BUT AS YOU KEEP SAYING IT OVER AND OVER
HEYYY!
I feel What.....?!! so bad Your wife for you. is really Suteo- that awful san!! ?!
I THINK YOU ACTUALLY CONVINCED YOURSELF THAT'S HOW IT REALLY WAS.
—I've had it tough for a long time.... So
I really... need you!
I know with you I won't have to suffer like that!!
AKARI, WHAT ARE YOU SAYING?!

AKARI... WOULD YOU PLEASE STOP?
YOU'RE IN FRONT OF THE CHILDREN, YOU KNOW?!
I FINALLY REALIZED THAT THE WAY DAD WORKS
IS HE FLIPS OVER THE CARDS LIKE THAT,
FORBIDDING CERTAIN WORDS IN ORDER TO TIE EVERYONE DOWN.
IF WE GO ALONG WITH THOSE RULES
THEN WE WON'T BE ABLE TO MAKE ANY MOVES TILL THE DAY WE DIE.
IT'S NOT GOOD TO MAKE ASSUMPTIONS ABOUT PEOPLE LIKE THAT,
AKARI.
IT'S NOT AN ASSUMPTION.
YOU SAID SO YOURSELF, DIDN'T YOU, DAD?
LET'S ALL TALK IT OUT TOGETHER.
OUR FAMILY AND THEIR FAMILY...
NO.
WE CAN'T DO THAT.
!!
WHY?!
キッパリ
SFX: KIPPARI (FLATLY)

SFX: KIPPARI (FLATLY)
— BECAUSE ...
WHAT I'M SAYING HERE IS DIFFERENT FROM WHAT I'M SAYING THERE.
キッパリ
...HUH?
.....
TH-
THEN YOU'RE TELLING US TO JUST ... LIE DOWN AND ACCEPT THE SITUATION ?
■■■■
■■■
キラ
SFX: CHIRAH (GLANCE)
WHAT ...?!
What was that glance ?!
HUUUU
UHUUU
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!

MY MIND WENT BLANK.
I COULDN'T BELIEVE THAT A FULL GROWN ADULT...
LET ALONE MY OWN FATHER COULD SAY SOMETHING LIKE THAT...
WHEN I STARTED WONDERING ABOUT WHAT HE WOULD SAY NEXT,
I WAS TOO SCARED
AND COULDN'T LISTEN TO ANYONE ANYMORE...
— What was right in front of me
— Yeah, Dad's not coming back...
at my Dad's face back then, I thought
But when I looked
was scary,
ugly,
and hopeless.
Right now,
Dad is putting on a whopper of a performance
of being a hero in front of the other woman.
We've done all we can now... I thought.

Our dad
that we loved so,
I thought that we
had become 'something'
that Dad and that woman want to disappear from their sight as quietly as possible...
so, so, much.

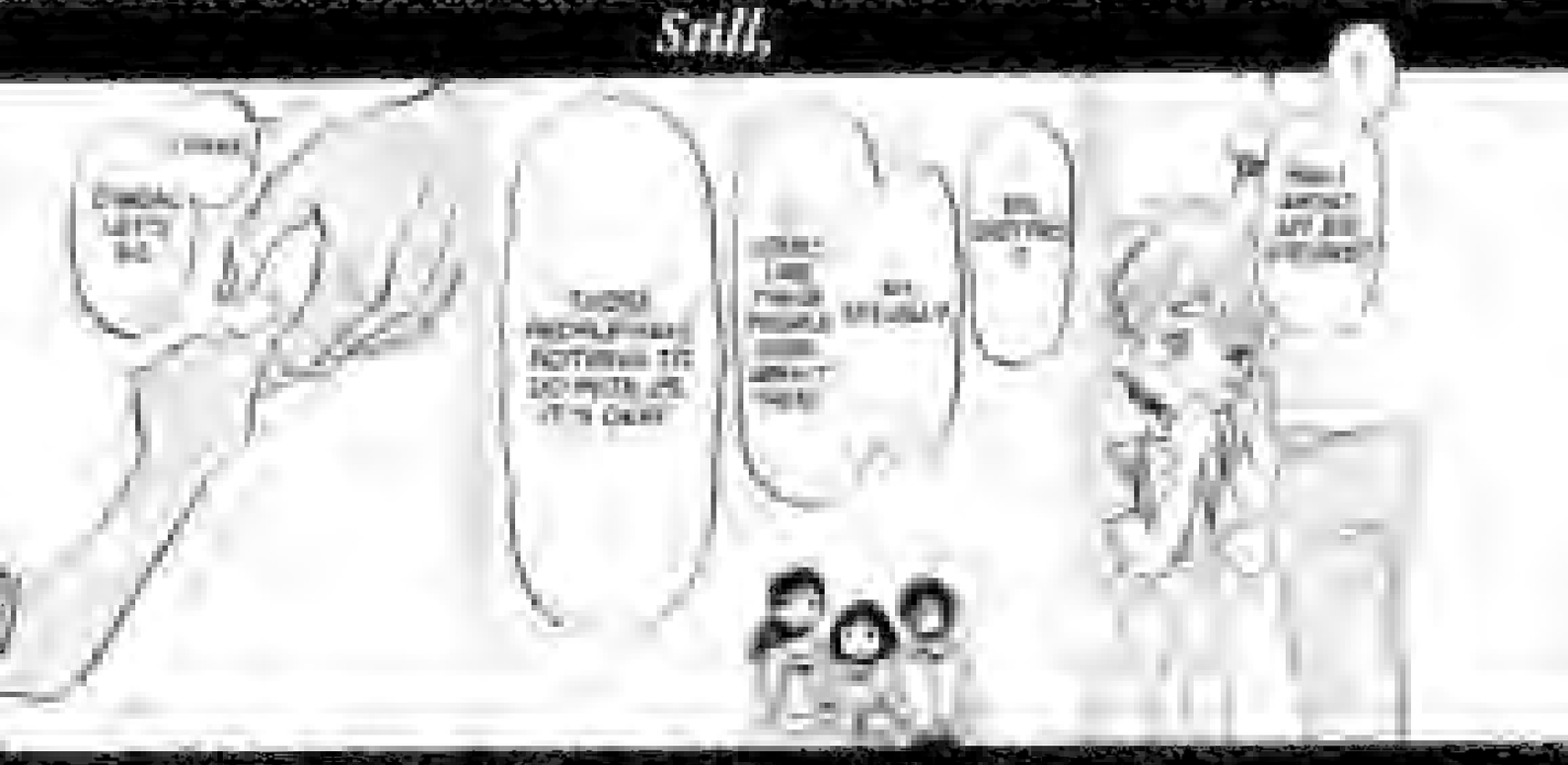

'IF YOU BROUGHT THEM TO HEAVEN WITH YOU, IT WOULD CAUSE YOU NOTHING BUT PAIN THERE.'
'THESE THINGS BELONG TO A STRANGER.'
AND I GRANDMA
THE BOX WE WERE ASKED TO PUT IN HER CASKET
WAS FILLED WITH PICTURES WE TOOK AS A FAMILY.
— INCLUDING ONES WITH DAD.
TOOK THEM OUT OF THE CASKET
AND THREW THEM AWAY.
'I'LL BE GOING THERE SOON, TOO.'
'DON'T BE LONELY.'

BUT
WOULD YOU THINK OF YOUR LITTLE SISTERS, AS WELL?
I TRULY ...
FEEL SORRY FOR WHAT I DID...
And just like she said,
Grandmother passed away the next Spring, like she was following her.

IT'S OKAY. ONE-CHAN!
IT'S OKAY!!
THAT IT WAS SOMETHING THAT YOU AND I DECIDED TOGETHER!!
IF THERE'S EVER A DAY WHEN MOMO CRIES ABOUT IT, I'LL EXPLAIN TO HER

I
NOT EVER!
WON'T LET HER LIVE WITH DAD.
SO HE SHOULD
TAKE RESPONSIBILITY AND LIVE THERE!!
THAT HE WANTED TO BE THE FATHER TO HIS OTHER FAMILY.
DAD CHOSE HIMSELF
WAIT!!
YOU MEAN I'M NOT YOUR DAUGHTER ANYMORE?!
WHAT DO YOU MEAN BY "9 OF US"?!
AREN'T YOU FORGET TING SOME-BODY ?!!
WE'RE FINE JUST THE 3 OF US!!
HEY AKA-KUN!! THAT'S WHERE YOU DECIDED YOU HAD TO SAY SOMETHING?!
Hold on

Still,



— When they saw those joined hands

the girls next to me couldn't say a thing.

I heard cries that were like screams.

Like the setting sun was slowly falling apart.

'Because of the kind of day it's been,

let's spend it enjoying ourselves

just like always.' Akari-san said.

Hina-chan and I minced all the onions and cabbage, rubbed the ginger,
mixed it together with the meat and kneaded it in a bowl.
Then we all sat around the dining table like always
and fervently wrapped the gyouza.
—And then
we grilled a ton of it
and ate it until our stomachs were full.

— The sky was blue like a high,
high up
Antarctic sea.
Deeply embracing this small town where the people I hold so,
so dearly live and becoming transparent.
Chapter 113 END

HI WA MATA NOBORU

THE SUN WILL RISE AGAIN

3-GATSU NO LION VOLUME 11

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